

FY-2002 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK for:
Steamboat Lake Water Lease

Project #: 67

Lead Agency: Water Acquisition Committee

Submitted by: George Smith
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, Denver, CO 80225-0486
Phone: (303) 236-5322 ex 235
Fax: (303) 236-4224
george_smith@fws.gov

Date: Revised September 17, 2001 and June 28, 2002

<u>Category:</u>	<u>Expected Funding Source:</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing project	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual funds
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing-revised project	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital funds
<input type="checkbox"/> Requested new start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O&M funds

I. Title of Proposal: Steamboat Lake Water Lease (Year 5)

II. Relation to RIPRAP:

Green River Action Plan: Yampa and Little Snake Rivers
I.B.2.a.(1)(b) Lease up to 2,000 AF from Steamboat Lake to augment late summer flows.

III. Study Background/Rationale and Hypotheses:

The lease of water from Steamboat Lake will help stabilize late summer flows in the Yampa River to maintain habitat for Colorado pikeminnow in the Yampa River. It is hypothesized that late summer flows in dry years may impede pikeminnow movement and decrease the extent of pool habitat.

IV. Study Goals/Objectives and End Products:

The goal of the effort is to provide a reliable source of late summer water for the Yampa River to maintain river habitat quality.

V. Study Area:

The Yampa River from Steamboat Springs to the confluence with the Green River.

VI. Study Method/Approach:

1. The Recovery Implementation Program will lease water from the Colorado Division of Parks (Parks), which owns Steamboat Lake. The lease will be for 2,000 acre-feet as identified in the Implementation Plan for the Recovery Program in the Yampa Basin. A lease price of \$32 per acre-foot has been estimated for 2002 but is subject

to an appraisal by Parks. A long-term lease was not negotiated in time for the FY 2002 lease, so another 1-year lease was done and a price of \$32,000 for 2000 acre-feet was agreed to.

2. Recovery Program Staff will work with Parks and the CWCB to renegotiate the lease for 25- 40 years.

VII. FY-2002 Budget: Colorado Division of Parks Lease: \$32,000

FY-2003 Budget: The 2003 SOW will reflect the renegotiated lease price but for budget projections \$ 64,000 has been assumed. Once a firm lease price is established the budget would be fixed for 5 additional years. The lease will be completed in 2002.

VIII. Reviewers: N/A Ongoing Project

IX. References: N/A